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SHEPSHED URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1902.

BY

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AND

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PRINTED BY HENRY FREEMAN, MARKET PLACE, SHEPSHED.

Shepshed Urban Sanitary District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

We herewith submit to you the Annual Report on the health of your District for the year 1902, including averages for the ten preceding years, 1892—1901 inclusive.

The Popu-
lation.

At the last census (1901) there were enumerated 5293 persons in your District, and on this the statistics for the year are calculated. From Table I. it will be seen that there were 1161 inhabited houses, and that the average number of persons per house was 4·4.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

154 births were registered during the year, of which 74 were males and 80 females. This gives a birth-rate of 29·1 per 1000 inhabitants, compared with 30·8 in 1901. The average birth-rate for the preceding ten years was 31·5.

Deaths.

There were registered 64 deaths, 27 being males and 37 females, giving a death-rate of 12 per 1000 inhabitants, compared with 13·8 in 1901. The average death-rate for the preceding ten years was 16·3.

Inquests.

Four inquests were held during the year.

Natural
Increase.

The excess of births over deaths is 90, the same as last year.

Infant
Mortality.

The infant mortality, calculated on the number of deaths in children under one year of age, per 1000 registered births, was 123·4, as compared with 147 for last year. The average for the ten preceding years was 146·4. There were 19 deaths in children under one year (*vide* Table IV.), and of these six died from tubercular diseases, and four from bronchitis.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Infectious
Diseases (No-
tification)
Acts, 1889
and 1899.

Ninety cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, viz., scarlet fever, 55; diphtheria, 7; erysipelas, 6; enteric fever, 3; and chicken-pox, 19. In the preceding year the notifications numbered 8.

Zymotic
Death-rate.

The zymotic mortality was 3 (scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; and whooping cough, 1), giving a zymotic death-rate of .06, as compared with .08 for last year.

Small-pox.

The Leicestershire Small-pox Hospital Committee of the County Council is now responsible for the isolation of cases of this disease which might occur in the district. None have been reported.

Scarlet Fever

Fifty-five cases were notified during the year. Twelve of these cases occurred during the early part of the year, but the real epidemic began about the middle of August. The following shows the number of cases per month :—

JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
0	3	7	2	0	0	0	5	2	7	20	9

The great majority of the cases occurred in scholars attending the National Schools. I visited these schools, and on enquiry found that certain children had been absent for two weeks. I then visited the home of these children, and was informed that they had suffered from sore throats and other symptoms of scarlet fever; but the parents, not recognizing the disease, had sent the children back to school, evidently during the most infective stage. In this way, I believe, was the disease spread amongst the other scholars.

I closed the National Schools for three weeks, beginning November 10th, and sent a special report of the epidemic to the Local Government Board.

There was great difficulty in getting proper isolation of these cases of scarlet fever. So-called isolation in the houses of the patients is useless in preventing the spread of the disease, as was shown by the fact that two, and sometimes three, cases occurred in the same house at intervals of some weeks. This epidemic of scarlet fever shows the great need there is for an Isolation Hospital.

One case ended fatally.

Diphtheria.

Seven cases were notified during the year, of which one died. In July your Council passed the resolution to supply anti-diphtheritic serum for preventive use. No cases have, however, been notified since that date.

Erysipelas.

There were notified six cases of this disease, all of which were mild in character.

Enteric
Fever.

Three cases were notified. Of these, two were in the same house, in the early part of the year. The third occurred in September. All three cases were in Springfield road, and all recovered.

Measles.

Very few cases of this disease were seen during the year.

Whooping Cough. This disease was very prevalent during the month of December. One death was due to it.

Diarrhoea. There was very little diarrhoea during the year, and only one death was registered from this cause.

Chicken-pox. Under the powers given by the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899, your Council added chicken-pox to the list of notifiable infectious diseases for one year, beginning April 3rd. Nineteen cases have been notified.

Disinfection. Disinfectants are gratuitously given in all cases of infectious diseases. The schools were disinfected during the holidays, and again in November.

OTHER DISEASES.

Epidemic Influenza and Pneumonia. During February and March influenza was very prevalent, and there were several cases of pneumonia. No death was registered as being due to the former, but pneumonia claimed six.

Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases. Six deaths were due to phthisis, compared with nine in 1901, seven in 1900, and nine in 1899. Instructions as to isolation, ventilation, and the proper disposal of the expectoration are given to patients suffering from this disease.

Nine deaths, of which six were in infants, were caused by other forms of tuberculosis, as compared with 11 for last year. The registration of dairies, and regular veterinary inspection of cows, would tend to diminish the number of cases of tuberculosis.

WATER SUPPLY.

Wells supply the water to your District. During the year 27 samples of water were tested, four being found unfit for drinking. These wells were cleansed, and fresh samples were examined and passed. There were no complaints of shortness of water.

SEWERAGE.

The street man-holes and the catch-pits have been regularly attended to. The deposit in the sewers has been much less than in previous years. Many of them have, in fact, been quite clear of deposit.

Irrigation is the method adopted for the disposal of the sewage. This treatment, in our case, is not at all satisfactory. The sewage at the outfall has all the appearance of untreated, unfiltered sewage, and some means ought to be adopted to get a better effluent. The farm is planted with osiers, which are now of two years growth. If these were cut annually there would be better opportunities for breaking up the ground, which would allow of a more efficient filtration.

The question of sewerage the Leicester road is becoming more pressing. The sanitary condition of the houses on the road will never be satisfactory till this is done.

SCAVENGING.

This is done by contract, a method which, on the whole, works very well. At the beginning of the year, the contractor did not attend to his duties satisfactorily. There were many complaints, and nuisances from unemptied pails were numerous. A new contractor was appointed in March, who has given greater satisfaction.

NUISANCES.

In conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector, a house to house inspection was made in certain localities in your District, and as the result several nuisances were abated. Two workshops in Chapel street, used as dwelling houses, were condemned as unfit for human habitation.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, makes the local sanitary authority more responsible for the cleanliness and sanitary conditions of factories and workshops. In November the Sanitary Inspector and myself visited all factories and workshops in your District. The former were generally found in a good sanitary condition, but the great majority of the latter were in much need of cleansing and lime-washing. Your Council issued notices to all owners and occupiers of workshops, requiring that such should be done. Another inspection will be made at an early date.

NEW BUILDINGS.

A New Committee of your Council has been formed, one of whose duties is the consideration of plans for the erection of new buildings. Twenty-three plans (including plans for two new streets, 45 houses, one factory, and several additions to factories and workshops,) were passed. These plans were examined by the Sanitary Inspector and ourselves before being submitted to the Plans Committee. This arrangement should result in the building of houses according to the Bye-laws.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Acts adopted by your Council are :—The Burials Act, the Public Libraries Act, and Part III. of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890. There is no Public Library.

Common
Lodging
Houses.

None exist in the District.

Dairies, Cow-
sheds, & Milk-
shops Orders.

We have no regulations with regard to these.

Bakehouses
& Slaughter-
houses.

These were inspected and found satisfactory.

THE TABLES.

These have been filled up as far as they refer to the District.

RESUME.

Your Council is to be congratulated on the very low death-rate for the year, viz., 12 per 1000 inhabitants. This is the lowest death-rate we can find in the sanitary records for the District. It compares very favourably with 16·3, the average death-rate for the ten preceding years.

The infant mortality, also, is low, being 123·4 as compared with 146·4 for the ten preceding years.

Considering the large number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, the zymotic death-rate (·06) is exceptionally low.

It is to be regretted that means for the better isolation of cases of infectious disease are not at the disposal of your officers.

The general sanitary state of the District is good.

We have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient Servants,

G. Cardno Still.

Thomas Bell.

Shepshed.

February, 1903.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1902 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		
		Number.	*Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.
				Number.	Rate per 1000 births registered.	
1892	4416	137	31·0	20	115	74 16·8
1893	4416	160	30·2	22	137	88 19·9
1894	4416	134	30·3	20	149	80 18·1
1895	4416	159	36·3	24	150	86 19·5
1896	5000	170	34·0	22	129	68 13·6
1897	5000	112	22·4	19	169	80 16·0
1898	5000	162	32·4	16	98	66 13·2
1899	5000	151	30·2	19	125	67 13·4
1900	5000	158	31·6	34	215	96 19·2
1901	5293	163	30·8	24	147	73 13·8
Averages for years 1892-1901.	4795	150·6	31·5	22	146·4	77·8 16·3
1902	5293	154	29·1	19	123·4	64 12·0

*Rates calculated per 1000 estimated population.
 Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 5280.
 Total population at all ages, at census of 1901, 5293.
 Number of inhabited houses " " 1161.
 Average number of persons per house " " 4·4.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	65 and upwards
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	7	...	2	2	...	3
Membranous Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	6	...	...	:	1	4 1
Scarlet fever ...	55	...	22	26	3	4
Typhus fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever ...	3	...	...	1	1	1
Relapsing fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ...	19	3	8	8	...	...
Total ...	90	3	32	37	5	12 1

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
				All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	..	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Fever	Typhus	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteric	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
	Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Plague	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Erysipelas	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	1	5	...
Other tubercular diseases	...	...	...	9	6	2	...	1	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	1	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	4	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	..	...	6	2	1	...	...	1	2
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Venereal diseases	...	..	..	..	..	...	...	...	..	...
Premature birth...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Heart diseases	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	2	1
Accidents	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
All other causes	...	..	...	26	5	2	...	...	3	16
All Causes	...	...	...	64	19	7	0	3	13	22

